drivers with a view to check accidents due to human error, has been pending with the Railway Board for the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether old method is being used even today for the training of drivers for want of simulators;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide simulators to training centres to impart training, based on modern technology to the drivers; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Purchase of Simulators for augmenting the training of the train drivers is under processing for the last three years. Main reasons for delay are offers not being in conformity with the requirement, higher rates and change in technology.

(c) Indian Railways have a system of training drivers and is well established. These training efforts have now been supplemented with Simulators and at present Indian Railways have four Simulators already located at Tugalkabad, Kanpur, Bhusawal and Kharagpur, which are being used for training of drivers. Drivers from other Zonal Railways are also sent to these centres.

(d) and (e) Simulators for other training centres are to be considered depending upon the need and availability of funds.

Mechanism to check rail accidents at unmanned level crossings

3635. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail accidents/accidental deaths that took place year-wise, zone-wise, during last three years due to unmanned level crossings;

(b) the number of unmanned railway crossings in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether there is any device/mechanism, warning train drivers about location of unmanned level crossings, to ensure that accidents do not occure there;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether any device/method/mechanism is being devised for that purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, how it is ensured that accidents do not occur at those locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):

(a) Number of consequential train accident at unmanned railway crossing along with the number of persons killed therein during the last three years is given below Zone-wise:—

Railways	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001*	
	No. of Acci-dents	No. of Persons Killed	No. of Acci-dents	No. of Persons Killed	No. of Acci-dents	No. of Persons Killed
Central Railway	3	4	7	22	5	6
Eastern Railway	1	1	—	—	—	—
Northern Railway	9	20	14	44	25	39
North Eastern Railway	4	7	14	77	13	16
North-east Frontier Railway	2	3	4	5	5	15
Southern Railway	4	13	8	29	6	5
South Central Railway	10	39	12	18	12	23
South Eastern Railway	9	7	5	3	5	12
Western Railway	6	44	3	3	1	2
Konkan Railway Corporation	—	—	—	—	1	10
TOTAL :	48	138	67	201	73	128

* Figures are provisional

(b) There are 1516 unmanned level crossings in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) Whistle boards are provided alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings. Train drivers are required to whistle from the whistle board till such time as the train passes the level crossing gate in order to warn road users about the approaching train.

(ii) Proper road signs and speed breakers / rumble strips have been

provided on approaches to level crossings so that road vehicle drivers become aware of the existence of level crossing and reduce their speed.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Rail Bridges in Distress

3636. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail bridges in distress, Zone-wise;

(b) the number of alternative bridges already completed, being constructed and those not being constructed, Zone-wise, separately; and

(c) what steps are being taken for movement of trains on those bridges which are in distress and are not being replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) As on 1.4.2001 there are 515 number of distressed bridges on Indian Railways, Zone-wise details are as under:—

Railways	Number of distressed bridges
Central	246
Eastern	27
Northern	66
North-Eastern	25
North-east Frontier	76
Southern	5
South Central	10
South Eastern	18
Western	42
TOTAL :	515

(b) The planning for rehabilitation/rebuilding of distressed bridges is as under:—